

A TRUE NARRATIVE
OF
CRUEL TREATMENT:
IN A
LETTER
TO

Donnach
D — — — B — — — N, Esq.

D U B L I N:
PRINTED in the YEAR 1786.

THE NATIONAL

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A TRUE NARRATIVE
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S I R,

I N Affairs of Consequence, it sometimes happens that a Man is intangled between the strict Rules of Law and those of Equity : the latter, which mitigates the Cruelty of the other, without the lessening or diminishing its Advantage, makes the Maxim good, *Summum jus est summa injuria* ; wherefore this Maxim in Morals is more to be relied on by Men of any Probity than the other. As the *Summa injuria* seems your chief Object, of having sold my Stock of Bulls, Sheep, Lambs, and Hay, in the dismalest Weather, (on the 17th of January) that ever was known, when no one could attend your Cant but your own Tenants and Cotters, and your cashired Attorney ; and when the Neighbours had more than enough to do to keep their own Stock alive ; most of which Stock were bought for you. I deferred making any Remarks on these Cruelties until now, in hopes that some adequate Apology might be made by you for that savage and brutal Behaviour of your Conduct ; nay, if I were your most violent Enemy, it would be sufficient for you to practise these Inhumanities on me ; but still you did not

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think them sufficient without purchasing my Debts, particularly one from Mr. Lambert, the Contrivance of which Purchase Lord Earlsfort saw into, and accepted my Cash instead of your's. Have I not seen your Father's Doings? and have I not bore them with more than Christian Patience? and so impatient are you, who are my Nephew, of keeping me in the Marshalsea of the Four-Courts, for 414l. 19s. 7d. and you wallowing in 7,000l. a Year; half of which your Father, my Brother, made by defrauding me of my Father's, and Brother Peter's very large personal Fortune, whilst I was attending a poor sickly Wife, in the Hands of Doctors in Dublin.

As to your saying, in one of your Affidavits, that I am litigious, I should ask you what made me so, for it was your Father who sued me in my Father's Name, by a Demand he made, as wicked and iniquitous as any I ever heard of, viz. his retracting a Grant he had made me in Writing, and acknowledged by him, of the Rent of a Farm gratis, during my Father's Life, who was then 87 Years of Age: He not only sued me for the accruing Rents, but the preceding Rents for seven or eight Years and a Half before, amounting to 875l. 8s. od. I laid the same out, and more, in useful and ornamental Improvements; and notwithstanding the Settlement I made of that Farm upon my Wife and Family, whereby they not only meant to make me an absolute Beggar, but to strip my poor Children of their Right, which Counsellor Stannard, the Recorder of Dublin, and

and other eminent Lawyers, certified to my Wife, who is Sister to Lord Nugent.

Pray, should not I be counted a Fool if I had submitted tamely to that Demand of the above avaricious Dominick, my Brother? * Would not my Wife's Friends, and even my own Conscience sting me while I live? My Father's Aversion to my Marriage sprung from the horrid Character which said Dominick gave of my Wife, and employed others to do the like, by promising to procure them Premiums by my Father's Will, † as it was expected he would soon die, that she was a Scold, a Termagant, 45 Years of Age, when she was then but 31; and likewise past Child-bearing: This to an old Man, who was near 90, and lived at a great Distance from her; these Things, and the Thinness of our Family, prompting this to him, made her and me quite odious to him. You, the present Dominick Jeffrey Brown, being left so great an Example of Cruelty, Fraud, and Avarice, that you speedily copied after it, when you found the least Opportunity; for soon after ejecting me, you seized on my Stock, and not permitting me to apply the Value of that Stock to the Payment of the ejected Lands they were on, but for a subsequent Gale; nor would you sell them for the same Gale, until three or four Months afterwards, on the 17th Day of January, when they were quite fallen away, when no-body was to

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* See the Pleadings.

† See Dominick's Encouragement to said Marriage.

be had to purchase them, except your own poor Cotters and a few Tenants, who most of them purchased for yourself, and that in the most dismal Season that ever was remembered, when the Occupier was an hundred Miles from him, and had no Notice of the Sale. You omitted selling my Household Furniture, consisting of many valuable Articles, not omitting a small Part of my Potatoes for my Sustenance when in that Country. These Things you did lest the Amount of my Stock should exceed the Rent I owed, and consequently disable you from imprisoning me here, and seizing the Farm the Stock was upon, as you did, and setting it to another.

Note, You heard my Wife was desperately ill at the Time, and was Bed-ridden in Dublin. Some Time before this you refused to take from me in one Payment 500l. when I owed you but about 600l. according to the common Times of Payment universally agreed upon at the Fair of Ballinasloe by all the Buyers and Sellers there; this you have done in the Presence of a most unexceptionable Witness, wherefore you have been since called Shylock the Jew, notwithstanding which you had the Assurance to invite our present Viceroy and his Lady to your Drum.

Still not thinking you had been sufficiently cruel, you had in half a Year after picked up a Debt that I owed to one Mr. Lambert, and issued an Execution against my Farms in the County of Mayo; and in my Absence, purchased them at one-third of their Value at a Sub-

Sub-Sheriff's Cant; but my good Lord Earlsfort, and his Brethren, prevented that Sale, by accepting the Payments made by me into his Court.

How came you to tell your Wife, and to others, so wicked and designing a Falshood, which they retailed as a most wicked Deed committed by me, That I had detained for five or six Years a large and profitable Farm after my Lease had expired? All this with a View of stripping me of my Character, and rendering me a most odious and perfidious Uncle. Whereas the Lease of that Ground had been for five or six Years expired, and I but Tenant at Will, as your Father's Letters to me will shew it most amply.

Pray, have not these different Things I mention brought on me Tryals at Law, Seizures of Cattle, Ejectments, the Loss of that Credit which I enjoyed until you became my Prosecutor; even employing false Affidavits and a false Reader of Affidavits, * as I can prove?

How came you to declare, that your Motive for quarrelling with me was, that I opposed your making a Road thro' one of my Farms to Castlemagarret, your Dwelling; whereas I am ready to make Affidavit that you never once applied to me on that Subject, and that I never in the least opposed any such Motion; for, on the contrary, I thought it would be an Improvement to my Farm if you made such Road or Roads; tho' I am persuaded that your
 Tenants

* See the genuine Affidavits at Mr. J. Evans's, Attorney.

Tenants will swear to what you please. This I heard but within these few Days. I wonder you had not mentioned this before; when I provoked you by my equitable Letter, tho' I never gave you the least Provocation, until you began your cruel Persecution against me.

As to Ballaghowly, of which you stripped me, (I suppose by the Advice of your degraded Attorney, Mr. Bowen, and his Clerk, now called Jennings) I intended making that Place a Paradise, and which I am now stripped of: my Contrivance of its House, tho' thatched, its grown up Groves, its Hills, Vallies, Serpentine Rivers, its Ponds, (which are the great Improvement of Boggy Lands) the beautiful Verdure of its Banks, magnificent Prospects of its Terraces properly built, its Gardens behind the House, its Mill and Mill-Dam, which I built at my own Expence, and the great Roads made where there were never any high Roads before, and a Bridge leading from Castlebar to various Parts of the County Roscommon and to Dublin. The Trees of Ballaghowly are remarkable and mostly forty Years old; a great Part of these Grounds were reclaimed by me from Bog and Mountain to good Lands; whereas it was wild when I got it; and was till now made to pay for them as if I had got them fine good Lands.

I scarce now need say more of you, than to talk of your own Qualities, and particularly your superlative Pride, your speaking to me as you would to your Footman, and your Arrogance in Deranging a certain Ancestor of our's, who was a Merchant, from our other Family Portraits

Portraits (tho' you have that Portrait, which was done by Vandyke) tho' that Merchant was the Ancestor of several of our Nobles, and I hope will be so of many more, as they are Men of very large Fortunes and Men of Merit. Lord Shelburne, as I am told, placed a mercantile Ancestor of his among the first of his Family Portraits, for which, if true, I honour his good Sense and Gratitude.

As I am your only Uncle on your Father's Side, I have said almost as much to you in private; but since I find you so superlatively proud and incorrigible, I spoke your Crimes to others in private: Pray, are not you an execrable Example to Landlords, and a Terror to Tenants in your Neighbourhood; and do not you consider yourself as a Nuisance to your Country, if not banished as the worst of Men?

Pray, can any one say he ever saw such Treatment given to any poor Man by his own Family among Turks, Hottentots or Barbarians. I wish you would make your Complaints of me now while I am alive; for as I have lived to the Age of 83 and upwards, there will be but few to answer for the Calumnies you'll give out to justify yourself. I must mention your Frauds to others, to shew you most capable of defrauding me, particularly to your's and my Grand Uncle, Stephen Brown, by begging and thereby stripping him of the Rent of three hundred Acres of the Lands of Ballycowly, left to him by my Great Grandfather's Will; and I can shew the Will to that Purpose, which my Father paid the Rent of till his Death, as may appear

appear by his Letters in the Hands of a Gentleman in this City.

It must be you that took out an Action against me for 158l. odd Money, in the Name of one Reaghry, the Administrator of Ridge, who is your Tenant, which I proved in Court to be a false one; and therefore defeated him there: this you did in order to make me more despicable than you could in the Eyes of the Country. It was undertaken by Jennings, your late Tool, as Keaghry alledges.

I defeated him and yourself, as to the purchase you made of my Farms relative to Mr. Lambert, and to the Rents and Arrears given me GRATIS, during my Father's Life, which I was most cruelly sued for.

Besides what you have added to your Fortune, by the Rise of Times, your Father has defrauded me, in my Absence, of 6000l. which is not near tantamount to the signal Damage you have done me, nor to the Damage he has done me by defrauding me of the Benefit of my Brother Peter's Will, which he employed his Priest, Hilvy Fergus, to get revoked in the very last Moments of his Life, and greatly against Peter's Inclination, when I was in Dublin, attending my sick Wife.

You have likewise, at your own Table, falsely bastardized some of your Relations, lest they should claim any Kindred to you. I must inform you and the Public, that you, or somebody from you, lately most maliciously wrote a Letter to Mr. Jennings, your Attorney in Dublin, that Anthony Madden, my Tenant in
the

*of Mr. Madden being defrauded of his share that
it would be your most cruel*

the Country, had failed and stepped aside, and desired that Notice of such Failure be given to General O'Donnell, my Friend, then in Dublin, in order to prevent him from giving me Cash for my Draft on said Madden, who was his Neighbour.

On the General's Return to the Country, and ~~said Brown~~ finding, in Consequence of such false Reports, that I got no Money from the General, ^{(his} villainous Views being then answered) wrote to said Jennings, that Madden was restored to his Credit.

Now as these Accounts are Facts, and that you have endeavoured to distress me in my Confinement, and injure the Credit of said Madden; I am determined to proceed against you and Jennings, as the Law directs in such Cases, for you and Jennings combining against my Life, &c.

Pray, Mr. Brown, can you say that I ever disobliged you by Design or Accident.

Your humble Servant,

HENRY BROWN.

Four-Courts-Marshalsea,
June, 1786.

*When woot fell from 10..6 to 5
some made a bargain of 20 off per
but you w^d not abate me a penny*

*1786
Mr. Brown
being indebted to Mr. Brown*

Facit Indignatio Versum.

A SURPRIZING great warmth my mind has possess'd,
And something like youth now kindles my breast;
For time does not injure, nor does my old age
Subdue my resentment, tho' it lessens my rage.
Your proud aristocracy you must lay aside;
We can't at all bear your superlative pride:
Since Sir Dominick Brown's portrait, tho' done by Vandyke,
Deranging that piece his descendants dislike;
As he was a merchant, that to you was a crime,
But merchants and shop-boys will plague you in time:
You beggar'd the friends of your good uncle Stephen,
Were they not beggars—with you they'd be even.
You would make me a beggar the country well know it,
Your feats at Ballcouldy sufficiently shew it.
Your encroaching the ninth part of the lands of Ballcouldy,*
And Corbally too, which I sometimes have told you
Was the grant of Sir Dominick, and confirmed by the will †
Of Jeffry, his heir, and the rents paid, until
Withheld by your father, in the year sixty-two, ‡
For they wanted the power to sue him or you.
Your tenant at Ashford you vilely bely'd,
You'd be fined in some thousands were that affair try'd;
Go then to your desert, and take into your chaise
Both your Attornies, for your instruction and ease; }
So well you'll be match'd, you may there dance the hays. }

* Which are 2000 acres.

† See the will in the proper office.

‡ See your father's letter, or an attested copy thereof.

